

## WAIVER OF VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

*Exchanges of notes at Bogotá December 19 and 24, 1930, and March 16, 1931*

*Entered into force May 1, 1931*

*Superseded June 21, 1957, by agreement of June 13 and 26, 1956, and May 22, 1957<sup>1</sup>*

Department of State files

*The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Minister*

[TRANSLATION]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
BOGOTÁ, December 19, 1930

MR. MINISTER:

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's note of the 12th instant, Number 286, with which Your Excellency was pleased to send me textual extracts from the tariff of consular fees of the United States insofar as they refer to passport visas.

Since in this transcription it is set out that special conventions have been celebrated to establish a tariff different from that which figures therein, this Ministry desires to know if the Government of Your Excellency would be disposed to agree upon a lesser tariff, on a reciprocal basis, and one which would be the minimum tariff possible. In behalf of this Ministry I desire to manifest to Your Excellency the good will which animates it in lowering as much as possible the fees for visas on United States passports, among other things, as a measure of friendship and rapprochement between the two peoples.

I would be grateful to Your Excellency for a prompt reply, and, if it is not an inconvenience to Your Excellency and it appear necessary, would appreciate it if Your Excellency would communicate by cable with the Government at Washington in this regard, since the Ministry is elaborating a decree regulating this matter.

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<sup>1</sup> 10 UST 1250; TIAS 4263.

I take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency my sentiments of highest consideration.

For the Minister—The Secretary  
A. GONZALEZ FERNANDEZ

His Excellency

Mr. JEFFERSON CAFFERY,  
*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
of the United States of America.*

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*The American Minister to the Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No. 294

BOGOTÁ, December 24, 1930

MR. MINISTER:

With further reference to Your Excellency's note of December 19, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency, pursuant to cabled instructions from my Government, that my Government is willing to enter into an agreement with the Republic of Colombia for the reciprocal reduction or abolition of passport visa fees along the lines set forth in my predecessor's note to the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, No. 413 of May 12, 1925. For Your Excellency's convenient information, I enclose a further copy of my predecessor's note referred to.

I take the occasion to present to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

JEFFERSON CAFFERY

His Excellency

Sr. Dr. RAIMUNDO RIVAS,  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Colombia,  
Bogotá*

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA  
May 12, 1925

No. 413

SIR:

I have the honor to acquaint you that I have been informed by my Government that the United States is now prepared to waive fees for passport visas and applications therefore in favor of those classes of aliens who are defined as non-immigrants by the United States Immigration Act of 1924, whose governments waive visas in cases of American travelers of like classes. The persons who are not "immigrants" as defined by the Act above-mentioned are the following:

"(1) a government official, his family, attendants, servants, and employees, (2) an alien visiting the United States temporarily as a tourist or temporarily for business or pleasure, (3) an alien in continuous transit through the United States, (4) an alien lawfully admitted to the United States who later goes in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory, (5) a bona fide alien seaman

serving as such on a vessel arriving at a port of the United States and seeking to enter temporarily the United States solely in the pursuit of his calling as a seaman, and (6) an alien entitled to enter the United States solely to carry on trade under and in pursuance of the provisions of a present existing treaty of commerce and navigation."

I may add, parenthetically, that this proposal does not apply to immigrants and does not, in any event, contemplate waiver of American visas on passports of aliens visiting the United States, but only contemplates the waiver of fees for American passport visas and applications therefor.

My Government, accordingly, has instructed me to inquire whether the Government of Colombia would be willing to enter into an agreement with the United States on this basis. In this connection, I may observe that Class 1 of the aliens defined as non-immigrants, and indicated above, is already granted visas gratis, and that irrespective of the view of the Colombian Government regarding the proposal which I have had the honor to submit, the United States contemplates no change in its practice with respect to granting visas to that class of aliens.

Consequently, I should much appreciate your conveying to me an expression of the attitude of your Government concerning this suggested cooperative action in amelioration of the conditions of international intercourse on the part of classes of the citizens of our respective countries.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to you, Sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

SAMUEL H. FILES

The Honorable

DR. ANTONIO GOMEZ RESTREPO

*Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Colombia.*

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*The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Minister*

[TRANSLATION]

MINISTRY OF

FOREIGN RELATIONS

*Bogotá, March 16, 1931*

MR. MINISTER:

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's notes of December 12, 13 and 24, 1930, relative to the fees charged by Your Excellency's Government for the visaing of Colombian passports.

I take pleasure in informing Your Excellency that by Decree No. 492 of March 10, this Ministry, taking into consideration the contents of Your Excellency's notes above referred to, fixed the following fee for the visaing of passports of citizens of the United States of America:

"Visa for one year to enter Colombia various times . . . . . \$10.—  
By reciprocity, passports shall be visaed free of charge for citizens of the United States coming within the classes of the groups of Colombian citizens to whom the United States grants similar exemption."

These fees shall take effect from May 1st next.

This Office, moreover, in a circular addressed to the diplomatic and consular officers of the Republic, has clearly established which are the per-

sons to whom the Government of the United States grants exemption from fees, copying the pertinent paragraph of the note from the Legation in Your Excellency's worthy charge, dated May 12, 1925, which reads as follows:

"(1) a government official, his family, attendants, servants and employees, (2) an alien visiting the United States temporarily as a tourist or temporarily for business or pleasure, (3) an alien in continuous transit through the United States, (4) an alien lawfully admitted to the United States who later goes in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory, (5) a bona fide alien seaman serving as such on a vessel arriving at a port of the United States and seeking to enter temporarily the United States solely in the pursuit of his calling as a seaman, and (6) an alien entitled to enter the United States solely to carry on trade under and in pursuance of the provisions of a present existing treaty of commerce and navigation."

The exemption established by the decree referred to is only an exemption of fees and not of visas. The persons coming within the classes established by the note of the Legation in Your Excellency's charge shall have their passports visaed by the Colombian officials but shall not be charged a fee for said visa.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

RAIMUNDO RIVAS

To His Excellency

JEFFERSON CAFFERY,

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
of the United States of America,  
Bogotá.*